COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

PROPERTY OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Vol. 3, No. 84 October 21, 1967

NOV 16 1967
RECEIVED
DOCUMENTS DIVISION

1st Aviation Brigade Named Army's Top Aviation Unit

The 1st Aviation Brigade was named "Outstanding Army Aviation Unit" for 1966-67 during award ceremonies Oct. 13 at the Army Aviation Association of America's 9th Annual Honors Luncheon in Washington, D. C.

Army Chief of Staff Harold K. Johnson presented the award to Maj. Gen. George P. Seneff Jr., currently Commanding General, Third Armored Division in Germany, who was CG of the brigade during the awards period.

CG Praises Men of Unit

Gen. Seneff, at a Pentagon news conference the same day, said credit for the award should go to the pilots, mechanics and other support personnel. In praising the men who make up the Army aviation's helicopter crews and support personnel, the general highlighted these points:

- Helicopter school graduates are "100 percent better" trained than their counterparts three years ago because lessons learned in Vietnam are now being incorporated as part of the course of instruction at Ft. Rucker, Ala.
- That although helicopter pilots come to Vietnam with only flying school experience for the most part, after 2-3 months as co-pilots they are qualified to become aircraft commanders.
- That in the 1st Aviation Brigade, each pilot averaged 90 hours of flying time during the month of August, a number of hours which was regarded as the theoretical maximum under any conditions.
- A loss rate of only one helicopter per 25,291 sorties.
- A body count of 9,413 Viet Cong killed by helicopter gunships during fiscal year 1967—a count said to exceed any divisional figure.

Gen. Seneff attributed the high kill ratio to the ever increasing Viet Cong tactic of attempting to melt away after contacting allied ground units and being pursued by helicopters.

The general said the 1st Aviation Brigade had a total of 1,400 helicopters, an estimated 60 percent of all helicopters in Vietnam, and were scattered throughout the country on a one aviation battalion-per-division, one-company-per-brigade basis.

NATO VISITOR—Gen. Johann A. Graf von Kielmansegg (right), Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Central Europe, NATO, is greeted by Gen. T. J. Conway, USA, Commander in Chief, U.S. Strike Command, on his arrival at MacDill AFB, Fla., for a conference and briefing on STRICOM.

Navy Version of F-111 Aircraft Termed Suitable for Carrier Operations

The F-111B aircraft is suitable for aircraft carrier operations, according to Robert A. Frosch, Assistant Secretary of Navy (Research and Development).

He said the aircraft's variable sweep wings will "more than compensate" for the aircraft's increased weight by allowing it to land and take off at speeds 15 to 20 knots less than the F-4 Phantom II or RA-5C Vigilante.

He also said the increased weight will be no problem for aircraft carriers from which the F-111B will operate. Flight decks, elevators and catapults will be able to handle the load, he said.

During Navy preliminary evaluation tests of the aircraft, deficiencies were discovered, Mr. Frosch said, some of which were termed "correction mandatory."

But, he pointed out, these are not acceptance tests, and quoting test reports out of context could indicate a bleak future for the aircraft.

Actual acceptance tests, staged by the Board of Inspection and Survey, are more than two years away, according to Mr. Frosch.

He said Navy is "heartened" that Air Force is bringing its F-111 into operational use in a "highly successful manner."

Washington Memos

SMALL BUSINESS FIRMS recorded in FY67 their highest defense dollar volume since records became available in FY51, some $8.1 billion as compared to $7.6 billion in FY66. These are direct DOD contracts which do not include the FY67 total of $6.7 billion in sub-contracts that prime contractors awarded under Defense Small Business Subcontracting Program. These and other figures were given by DOD to Congress in mid-October during House hearings on small businesses.

MACV HAS CAUTIONED personnel that informal and multi-colored berets worn in-country are non-uniform when leaving Vietnam on rotation or "R&R leaves." Only Army Special Forces green berets, Air Force combat control personnel blue berets and Air Force pararescuemen maroon berets are legal outside of Vietnam. MACV noted many individuals were wearing berets of other colors at home and in R&R areas.

FINAL DRAFT CALL for 1967 will total 18,200 men for Army. All those to be inducted during December will be called up in first half of month to avoid holiday season. Defense Department's December request reached exactly monthly average of 18,225 men for preceding 11 months of 1967. Monthly draft calls varied from February's low of 10,900 to August's high of 29,000. DOD has requested 218,700 men during year with most of them going to Army.

FIRST-TERM AIRMEN now have better opportunity to collect variable reenlistment bonus. New rules offer retrainees an option of reenlisting or extending their original enlistment for 20 months. This permits them to attend a training course leading to a VRB specialty and allowing reasonable period for upgrading to five level. Formerly, retrainees were required to extend for 48 months.

NAVY IS ISSUING $25 million modification to previously awarded contract to Lockheed Missile and Space Co., Sunnyvale, Calif., for production of Poseidon (C-3) missiles and related equipment.

THE ARMY HAS designed a position locator intended to prevent troops from getting lost in jungle terrain where it often is difficult to find reference points for land navigation. The 10-pound device can give a man his position at any time in relation to his starting point.

ARMY SFC JOSEPH L. Monteilh, assigned to 1st Missile Battalion, 67th Artillery, Wertheim, Germany, received letter from President Johnson praising him for a suggestion which saved Army almost $12,000. His suggestion resulted in equipment changes on laboratory radio receivers which reduced maintenance costs by 97 percent. In his letter, President Johnson welcomed Monteilh "to partnership with me in the imperative task of cutting the cost of government. Your concern has properly earned your recognition as an economy champion. As I salute you, I commend your example to every employee at every level of our government."

CAPT. VERONICA BULSHEFSKI, USN, representing Directors of Army, Navy and Air Force Nurse Corps, and Lt. Mary Sulkowski, USN, participated in production of a closed circuit TV course at Chicago Video Training. Capt. Bulshefski discussed contributions and history of military nurse corps, and Lt. Sulkowski discussed care of military casualties in Vietnam. Film from hospital ship USS Repose and Air Force evacuation facilities was used in production.

EUROPEAN AIR EVACUATION at Dover AFB, Del., has been taken over by the 438th Military Airlift Wing at McGuire AFB, N.J. Dover's 436th MAW airlifted 4,800 patients from Rhein-Main AB, Germany to Andrews AFB, Md., during the past 16 months. Dover will continue its Southeast Asia runs.

ARMY BRIG. GEN. Samuel W. Koster has succeeded Maj. Gen. Richard T. Knowles as Commanding General of Americal Division at Chu Lai, RVN. Named as Assistant Division Commander was Brig. Gen. Charles W. Ryder. Gen. Koster was Director for Plans and Programs, Office of Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, prior to assuming command of Americal Division. Gen. Ryder was formerly Assistant Division Commander, 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam.

NATIONAL PRESS Photographers Association and Department of Defense are jointly sponsoring Tenth Annual Cross Country Photojournalism Seminars scheduled for presentation during November. Seminars will consist of four one-day short course sessions in Miami, Indianapolis, Wichita and Seattle. Registration fees are waived for uniformed and civilian members of armed services and U.S. Coast Guard assigned to duties related to fields of public affairs and photography.

AMPHIBIOUS TRANSPORT DOCK USS Nashville was launched at Seattle, Wash., Oct. 5. The 570-foot long ship is designed to carry combat troops and their equipment and is equipped to handle transport helicopters and landing craft.

IN SERIES OF 75 orders issued to Bell Helicopter Co., Ft. Worth, Tex., Army Aviation Materiel Command has authorized production and delivery of $3.7 million of aircraft components and support equipment. Among items covered in orders are personnel rescue hoists, latch spindles, brackets, aircraft cover accessories, fireshield assemblies, indicator panels, cranks, bolts and washers.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

Published semi-weekly by Armed Forces Press Service, 1117 N. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Office of Information for the Armed Forces, OASD(M). Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFPS).

Secretary Nitze Voices Concern Over POW Treatment

The United States and the International Red Cross are continuing efforts to persuade the Hanoi government to abide by provisions of the Geneva Convention covering prisoners of war, although such efforts have been "persistently rebuffed" by North Vietnam.

Red Cross Denied Access

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul H. Nitze said Oct. 14 that representatives of the International Red Cross continue to be denied access to prisoners of war held in North Vietnam. Mail privileges to and from families are restricted or totally denied, he added, and no list of prisoners has been provided to the International Red Cross as required by the Convention.

The secretary said the leaders in Hanoi should recognize their responsibilities under the Geneva Convention, and:

- Should provide the International Red Cross with a list of our captured servicemen.
- Should permit representatives of the International Red Cross to visit all prisoners of war compounds.
- Should open up their mails so that all of the prisoners of war can send and receive letters.

"Contrary to Hanoi's propaganda claims," Secretary Nitze stated, "American prisoners have been able to write or receive letters in only a handful of instances."

The secretary pointed out that the callous refusal by the Hanoi government to fulfill its obligations under the Geneva Convention "is compounded by yet another violation of international law and decency." The enemy's propaganda apparatus now is at work to exploit United States servicemen who are being held as prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

As has been reported in recent news stories, the secretary said, "the communists are trafficking in prisoner of war propaganda films and photographs."

Geneva Convention Violated

Secretary Nitze explained that the Geneva Convention, to which North Vietnam subscribes, clearly states that military men who are held as prisoners of war must not be put on exhibition.

"Yet this is exactly what the Hanoi government has been doing with its parade of prisoners through the streets of Hanoi and its other filmed public displays of our captured servicemen.

"On a carefully selected basis, Hanoi's leaders have been permitting hand-picked newsmen to film and photograph a few prisoners.

"Then, in collusion with such other communist governments as East Germany, Hanoi has arranged for propaganda films of U.S. prisoners of war to be sold throughout the world for a price."

Noting the deep interest that Americans have in the welfare of U.S. service personnel in enemy hands, the secretary said, "I can readily understand the desire of American news organizations to obtain these films from whatever sources are available.

"But it is important that the American people know that these films are communist propaganda and that this propaganda is being sold for hard cash."

Evidence of Fakery

Secretary Nitze continued, "Even as propaganda the films have carried their own tell-tale mark of fakery; instances have been uncovered in which the enemy has used the deceitful technique of dubbing voices. In other instances the physical appearance or behavior of the captured men belied any thought that their appearances or their statements were voluntary."

The secretary noted that the recently DOD formed top-level Prisoner of War Policy Committee, headed by Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) Paul C. Warnke, keeps him informed on matters within the cognizance of DOD concerning U.S. military personnel reported as being missing or held captive.

While the U.S. Government strives to assist families of captured American servicemen in every way possible during this trying period, Secretary Nitze said, "nothing short of knowing with certainty that their men are alive and being treated decently will relieve their anxiety. Only Hanoi can do this.

"The United States has made a number of efforts through the International Committee of the Red Cross and neutral nations to get Hanoi to comply with the Convention and to demonstrate that they are treating the prisoners of war decently."

He said, "These efforts, so far, have been unavailing."

Need for Awareness

Secretary Nitze continued:

"All our citizens, particularly those brave wives and parents and children who wait for the return of their loved ones, should be aware of the practices of Hanoi in merchandising at a price propaganda films and photographs of U.S. military men.

"The enemy is seeking to exploit these prisoners. The Defense Department wants the communist propagandists to know that the American public and the rest of the free world are aware of the humiliating treatment being accorded the prisoners of war in Hanoi.

"All of us who are concerned with the welfare of these men and their families will, of course, look with interest and concern at any films that are made available. We shall also look at these films and photographs with the knowledge of exactly what they are—callous communist propaganda."

Operationally-Configured F-111A Delivered to AF

Air Force received in mid-October its first operationally-configured F-111A tactical fighter.

The new "production model" flew into Nellis AFB, Nev., Oct. 16 from the General Dynamics plant at Ft. Worth, Tex., at a constant 1,000-foot altitude, using its automatic terrain-following radar.

This radar, hooked up with an analog computer, is designed to allow safe penetration of enemy defense by controlling aircraft at very low altitudes to minimize detection, flying beneath range of air defense radars.

Air Force said terrain following is possible for the F-111A in either its straight wing position or in supersonic flight with the wings fully swept back.

The F-111A delivered at the Nellis aircrew training center is the 31st General Dynamics has built and incorporates two Pratt Whitney TF-30-P3 engines, modified engine air inlets and other improvements over earlier F-111A versions.

Underwater POL Storage Proven Feasible in Tests

Army tests on underwater containers indicate petroleum products (POL) can be safely and economically stored underwater in combat areas or in the event of a nuclear attack.

Tests by Army's Corps of Engineers at Mono Lake, Calif., showed the containers can withstand the shock of large scale TNT explosions underwater and offer effective protection from thermal radiation.

Container used in the experiment was developed in 1959 by a commercial rubber company for the Office of Naval Research.

Navy, in earlier tests, submerged a 66-foot long container in the Gulf of Mexico during seasonal storms and found it suffered "no significant damage."

Army believes the containers will eliminate need for large POL storage areas above and below ground.

SILVER STAR—Maj. Thomas H. Normile, USAF, is decorated with the Silver Star by Lt. Gen. William W. Momyer, Commander, 7th Air Force. Maj. Normile was recognized for action against an opposing armed force as an F-4C aircraft commander.

Hawaii Issues Statistics On Service R&R Visits

Hawaii's Visitors Bureau expects more than 82,000 American servicemen from Vietnam on R&R leave and some 61,000 wives and other relatives to visit the islands during FY68.

The bureau points out that the once weekly flights from Vietnam to Honolulu which started in August 1966 have been increased to 45 flights a month.

These flights originate at three Vietnam fields—Saigon, Cam Ranh Bay, and Da Nang—and the bureau estimates some 7,290 American servicemen will take advantage of these R&R links to Hawaii each month.

All military personnel in Vietnam rate one rest and recreation five-day leave, not counting travel time, during their Vietnam tour.

They may go to Hawaii or to other Pacific points such as Bangkok, Thailand; Hong Kong; Sydney, Australia; Kuala Lumpor and Penang, Malaya; Singapore; Tokyo and Taipei.

VAdm. Rickover to Remain In Navy Nuclear Program

Retired VAdm. H. G. Rickover has agreed to stay two more years with the Navy Nuclear Propulsion program.

The 67-year-old admiral's present tour will end in January 1968.

The request for Adm. Rickover to continue with the program came from Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius, with concurrence from the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

The admiral is director of the Naval Reactors Division of the Atomic Energy Commission and deputy commander for Nuclear Propulsion in Navy's Ships Systems Command.

President Sends Thanks For Connecticut Petition

President Johnson has expressed his appreciation to the citizens of Connecticut who signed a petition supporting armed forces personnel at a recent North Haven Fair.

Presented by a local radio station during its "Salute to the Armed Forces" show at the fair, the petition was signed by 1,256 persons and forwarded to the President.

The President has instructed the Department of Defense to send the petition's salute to "our courageous fighting men in Vietnam and to other stations around the world."

Marine Corps Announces New Reenlistment Policy

New Marine Corps reenlistment policy allows some Marines serving on their initial enlistment to reenlist with as much as two years service remaining.

The early reenlistment is limited to those who request training in signal, intelligence, aerology, air control or telecommunications maintenance.

Marine Corps officials say promotion opportunities are excellent in these fields and many are authorized proficiency pay.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
Price 5 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $2.50 per year; $3.25 additional for foreign mailing.